NEWEST FASHIONABLE FIGURE SHOWS NORMAL WAIST LINE

Hedge Sparrow Blue Satin and Silver Gray Gauze Latest Combination of the Dressmakers—What Jewels to Wear by Day—White, Cherry and Emerald Hats and Heliotrope and Pale Blue Tulle Veils

PARIS, Aug. 9.

IN one of this week's sketches the latest fashionable outline of the figure is clearly indicated. It shows a race dress in soft satin. The tunic is draped up in front, while the skirt is allowed to fall in straight lines.

The waistline is absolutely normal; neither high nor low and not in the least compressed. The corsage is softly draped over the bust and allowed to fall in blouse fashion over the ceinture.

With the short sleeves shown in the sketch it is the fashion to wear mousquetaire gloves of twenty-eight or thirty button length. The gloves are wrinkled over the arms and pushed up under the little sleeves. All the newest Paris models are decollete, as indicated in the sketch, and dainty chemisettes are introduced under the loose kimono corsages.

For supple satin the newest color is pale hedge sparrow blue, and this is combined with silver gray gauze traced over with silver. A big Paris firm recently made a garden party dress in satin of this color for the Duchess of Westminster and it had a draped tunic very similar to that shown in the drawing of silver gray gauze, which was very finely embroidered in dull silver. There were long fringes of pale blue silk and of silver threads on one side of the dress, and the broad sash was in supple black moire. To accompany this dress there were cothurnes in hedge sparrow blue suede, and these had dull silver eyelet holes to carry narrow ribbons in black moire; the buckles were of silver inset with paste.

A famous Italian poet recently gave an interesting conference on the art of wearing pearls. This conference was given in the gardens of a splendid chateau in the Seine-et-Marne district and the hour chosen was twilight. The guests sat in a sheltered corner of the old Italian garden and in their white dresses made a picture that Winterhalter would have loved to paint. The conference was exceedingly subtle and poetic. It was also almost exaggeratedly eclectic, because the pearls spoken of were of such rare beauty that they could only have been worn by women of great wealth.

Nevertheless it was intensely interesting and it clearly set forth the great truth that pearls, and pearls only, can be worn at any time of the day or night with perfect propriety. The question of wearing a quantity of jewels at a public casino has often been discussed in Paris. Certain of the more exclusive Parisiennes are opposed to the idea; they argue that there is a vast difference between a casino which may be entered by any one who pays the entrance fee and a private house or even a club where one is more or less surrounded by equals. There is a great deal to be said for this idea, but at the same time it would be a pity to do away with the wearing of pretty jewels on the terrace or in the salons of a big casino.

Casino evening dress continues to be the most becoming of all fashions for women. The combination of an elaborate evening gown with an equally elaborate evening wrap and a big picture hat is not to be surpassed. This style of dress shows off all a woman's best points and it is undeniable that the addition of a few flashing diamonds is welcome.

A really clever woman will never wear too many jewels in a public place like a casino, and she will know how to make a selection with discretion. She will, for example, avoid large diamond hatpins, just as she will avoid diamond hairpins which show under the brim of the picture hat. The diamond hairpin—except with full evening dress is impossible. It has the effect of making the whole toilette look ordinary and in bad taste.

On the other hand it is quite correct to wear small diamond shoe buckles even in the day time on white canvas or suede walking shoes, and exquisite fittings for cothurnes are being designed and made by the leading jewellers in Paris. Some of these are in enamel and silver, others are in cut jet; and when expense is not to be considered these fittings are made in pastel tinted enamels inset with diamonds or sapphires.

In a sketch is shown one of the most lovely picture hats it is possible to imagine. In design this hat is exceedingly simple but its wide lace brim is most graceful in outline and the crown is entirely original. It is composed of black mirror velvet and the long ends are so skilfully tied that they resemble the petals of a gigantic black lily. This style of hat crown is very popular this summer. I have seen charming models made of large silk handkerchiefs; and others in fine lace and in printed chiffon. When very fragile materials are used for these hat crowns the ends are invisibly wired.

The wide lace brim of this hat is transparent. This is another novel note of the season. Many of the most expensive models are made in slightly cloched form, with the brim lightly covered with gathered tulle and a cluster of feathers, or aigrettes, jutting out at one side.

Another sketch shows an effective study in black and white. The idea of this hat and neck ruffle was taken from Pierrot. The little close fitting hat is not at all unlike his pork pie hat and the black tulle ruffle strengthens the idea. This style of hat belongs especially to the dainty Parisienne. It is what she wears in the early motoring hours on the "planches" at Trouville; it is what she will wear in September on the grand plage at Biarritz. With a white linen suit this hat and ruffle would score a certain success.

Supple white satin is the favorite material of milliners to-day and it is combined with linen and with velvet or moire. The model sketched was entirely composed of chalk white satin and the amusing little butterflies were jet black, and mounted on flexible wires. Then the tour de cou was in black tulle and the costume with which both were to be worn was in pure white linen. On the smart coat there was a collar of black watered silk and cut jet buttons appeared on the straight fronts.

Hats in this particular shape are made in white felt and also in cherry and emerald for wearing in the morning with white linen suits. In a brilliant shade of cherry red this soft felt is charming and the hat would probably be accompanied by a floating veil in chiffon of the same bright shade.

Emerald green and Egyptian blue hats are treated in the same way and for early morning wear this soft felt is considered more correct than straw. White satin shapes are of course rather more dressy, but even these are freely worn with linen suits in the early morning. Everything depends on the style of trimming used and on the accompanying veil. When a floating veil of mousseline de soie or chiffon is added almost any simple hat looks correct for morning wear.

One of the new face veils of the season is made of fine silk tulle in a pale shade of heliotrope with tiny pin dots all over its surface. This is specially becoming for fair skins. It is worn in Paris in conjunction with a face powder which is almost heliotrope in tint. The effect is very peculiar; the skin looks unnaturally pale and delicate, but when the lips happen to be rich in tone the ensemble is highly attractive.

Pale blue tulle veils of the same kind are very much worn by women of rich complexions, and some of these veils show white and black pin spots mingled.

One of the latest picture hats. Wide brimmed hat in fine black lace, with crown of black mirror velvet, tied in "lily" bow.

Small shape in white satin, with black butterflies mounted on flexible wires. Neck ruffle inblack silk tulle.

Women Eyed With Suspicion in House of Parliament

Even the Wives of Cabinet Ministers Have to Submit to the Restraint Imposed by Unwritten Laws on Their Sex.

By a MEMBER'S SECRETARY.

COLLECTIVELY the British House of Commons does not approve of woman, and she is only allowed within the precincts on sufferance. Even the wives and daughters of Cabinet Ministers walk along the corridors in a furtive manner, and no woman on any pretext may move from one part of the building to another unescorted by a man.

Should a woman wish to speak with a member she must present herself at the lobby entrance and humbly give his name to the policeman on duty. After scrutinizing her bag and parcels the policeman will pass her on till she finally arrives at the outer lobby, where she can inscribe her name and that of the member she wishes to see upon a card. It may be sent in at once, or the gold chained official may decide that he will have a nap first.

The woman waits patiently, or impatiently, according to temperament seated upon a narrow green leather bench between cold and supercilious statues of politicans of a bygone day. If the member wishes to see his visitor he may appear in half an hour or an hour, or he may merely tear up the card, when his name will presently be called as "not in the House." The unwritten law that no woman must move about the house unescorted existed long before the suffragettes spread panic among politicians.

Only the other day Mrs. Asquith and Mrs. Winston Churchill were chatting with a party of members when the division bell rang as a signal that a vote was to be taken. The ladies were hastily deposited on the nearest bench and told not to move till they were fetched. Not long ago the daughter of a titled lady was thus left by her hosts, a father and son, both members of the House. After the vote each man thought the other had returned and escorted their guest to a place of safety. Only at dinner time, some hours later, was the absence of the girl noticed. She had remained obediently on the spot where she had been left, under the impression that dire consequences would follow any attempt on her part to find her way outside alone.

The ladies' gallery is ridiculously inadequate as regards size and the possibility of seeing and hearing. It holds only forty, and of these not more than a dozen can see and hear. Outside in the corridor there is a long uncomfortable bench on which women who have secured supplementary tickets (that is a ticket to admit if there is an empty place) sit sometimes for hours. The Speaker's gallery is rather smaller and is entirely at the disposal of Mr. Lowther. If a Cabinet Minister or other member is going to make a special speech his wife will write to Mrs. Lowther begging as a favor to be permitted to occupy a seat in this gallery.

The system of balloting for seats in the ordinary gallery is thoroughly democratic. As 620 members of Parliament have the right to ballot for two seats each, it may readily be believed that the places are always full. The possessor of one of the coveted ivory discs may occupy her seat for certain hours, which are divided so as to make three sessions during the day. If by any chance the owner of a disc has not arrived when the door opens some one else with a supplementary ticket may occupy her place till she comes. It is no unusual thing to see a woman in gorgeous evening dress and diamonds meekly giving place to the wife of a workingman wearing a battered sailor hat and a much washed blouse.

"Tea on the terrace" is not what it used to be; it was formerly a fashionable rendezvous; now very few really smart women put in an appearance there. To begin with, the tea is very indifferent, the cakes are large and unappetizing and the strawberries often "squashy." Those wearing light dresses should dust a chair before sitting on it. The service is anything but quick and efficient. It is possible to wait twenty minutes between the arrival of the teapot and the plate of bread and butter.

Still, Colonial visitors and country cousins enjoy the mild entertainment, and an immense amount of pleasure is given to constituents from remote country districts, who sit around the little iron tables consuming tea and buns and feeling that they are at the hub of the universe. Several well known political ladies have been in the habit of giving receptions in this way, but the authorities this season have put their foot down and decreed that not more than ten guests at a time may be invited by one hostess. Lady Henry, Lady Mond and Mrs. "Lulu" Harcourt and others have been hard hit by this rule.

During the season Mrs. Lloyd George, Mrs. Masterman, Mrs. Winston Churchill and Mrs. McKenna generally have parties once or twice. Their husbands come and shake hands perfunctorily and then retire to the end of the terrace, which has a forbidding notice "For Members Only." Not long ago the Countess of Carlisle, anxious to speak to her son, Geoffrey Howard, who had retired across the magic barrier, boldly passed beyond the notice board. The members, enjoying their cigars and cigarettes in the assurance that they were free from feminine molestation, were panic-stricken. Her son gently led her back to where tea and chatter prevailed and seemed to be giving her an earnest lecture upon what can and what cannot be done within the sacred precincts.

There is one thing about the officials of all kinds at the House of Commons from the page boy, who brings you hot water in the dull tearoom behind the ladies' gallery, to the high and mighty individual in a gold chain who marches about the lobby and sometimes condescends to carry in your card to a member; they are invariably polite and helpful. The policemen must be selected for their discrimination and good manners. They soon learn the faces of those who attend frequently and have a wonderful memory for messages.

"Are you the lady for Mr. ——?" I heard one of them ask in the lobby where hundreds pass every moment. "He said he expected a lady with blue in her hat. If you will wait beside the second statue on the right he will come out at 4:30 o'clock."

They have an unerring eye for bores and are never tired of patiently explaining that "Mr. So-and-so is not in the House at present." Members too have an eye for a bore. I have seen almost a stampede from the lobby when the swing doors opened and Lady —— appeared armed with her inevitable bundle of papers and an expression on her face which meant: "I'm going to have it out with somebody."

The policemen take a fatherly interest in every one—members and their visitors.

"I left a lady in a pink cloak here," said a distracted member late one night as we came out. "I wonder what became of her?"

"I ain't seen no lady, sir," said the policeman, "there was some females 'ere, but they've left. Shall I go and look on the benches in the lobby?"

Presently he returned triumphantly with the lady in pink, whom he delivered to her rightful owner rather as if she had been a parcel.

Some members employ a woman secretary or typist, but there is absolutely no accommodation for her, as the secretaries' rooms at the House of Commons—cosey places, supplied with large tables, plenty of chairs and stationery—are barred to her. She may peep in if accompanied by a member as a guarantee of good faith, but she must not sit down.

Upstairs on the top floor there is a large typewriting room where girls are employed. Few things are more ridiculous than the aspect of this room on a busy afternoon. It is provided with several compartments like confessional boxes with glass tops. In each sits a girl with a typewriter and in front, with his head inside the window, sits a member dictating. Propriety decrees that no dictating shall be done in a private room; all must be under the eagles eye of the lady who presides. The boxes are of course arranged so that what is said cannot be overheard.

Downstairs, on a level with the terrace, there are several very dull and ill lit dining rooms, where members and their guests may eat an expensive and indifferent dinner. The general effect is that of a railroad station dining room, and one expects an official to put his head in at the door and say, "Train starts in three minutes." A few of the more old fashioned country members still dine in these dens, but most dinner parties are given in the Harcourt room, a bright and airy apartment where the decorations are light oak and where all the political world and his wife congregate during the session.

At one side are several tables given over by tacit consent to the labor members who like to take the shilling dinner, provided at a loss by the catering committee, or a vegetarian meal of a nondescript kind. Recently the serving of the savory haddock was objected to because some members complained that while this fish was being prepared for, say Will Crooks or Mr. Henderson, other people's nostrils were offended. So strong was the feeling at one time between the haddock eaters and the non-haddock eaters that serious developments in the House itself were threatened. "Lulu" Harcourt, however, who at that time was more or less responsible for domestic affairs as First Commissioner of Works, smoothed matters over. The haddocks are still on the menu, but their odor is restrained within kitchen limits.

The cooking is only quite mediocre, the wines are moderately good, but expensive, and except for the feeling that one is in the swim it is really pleasanter to dine at the Cecil, the Savoy or at some cosey little restaurant in Soho. Dress is a matter of "go as you please." A lady in a low necked dress and resplendent with diamonds on her way to a ducal reception will sit at one table, while at the next a country cousin will hang her mackintosh over the back of her chair before beginning her meal. The same applies to the men. I saw Lord Lincolnshire wearing his blue ribbon of the Garter and several orders while enjoying the hospitality of a member and his wife, the member just up from Scotland in a rough tweed suit and his wife wearing a morning coat and skirt.

On the whole, unless a woman is keenly interested in politics or unless she has some definite object in visiting the House of Commons it is a dull place in which to spend an afternoon or evening. The only way in which a visit can really be enjoyed is to prevail upon T. P. O'Connor to escort one round the precincts. He has a marvellous knowledge of the history and traditions of the place, knows every one and talks in a delightfully interesting manner when he is in the mood.

INEXPENSIVE CURTAINS.

NOW that autumn is approaching it is time to think of new curtains for the apartment. They may be purchased now at small cost.

For a living or dining room nothing could be prettier than the green and yellow scheme. If the walls are green, brown or gray, have soft yellow next the window and green to cover the woodwork.

Soft yellow silk muslin hemstitched is beautiful, but the same delicate shade of cheesecloth will give exactly the same effect. Cheesecloth may sound rather poor, but when hanging at a window with the light back of it nothing could be prettier, and certainly nothing less expensive. Make the curtains perfectly straight, with a wide hem. Put them on a brass rod and they will hang softly, giving a peculiar light that is unusually suggestive of mellow sunlight.

Over the window frame a heavier material is necessary. For all living rooms cretonne or English chintz in yellow and brown tones is pretty, but cotton poplin is no more expensive and much more elegant and artistic. Poplin can be purchased in all shades of green, brown or red, and is a good substitute for velours in winter, as it looks quite as warm, and, unlike velours, it need not be made by an expert to look well.

Outside drapes should be cut straight, the same as those next the window, using a width for each side. Hem across the bottom and attach the other end to a rod, or tack to either side of the window frame as they will not be drawn, but left to hang plain at the sides. Across the top of the window a valance is good. Cut the poplin in half lengthwise, making a casing, with heading, and have it twice as wide as the window. Run the rod through the casing.

For a bedroom white cheesecloth is advantageous. Cheesecloth washes like linen, always looks fresh, apparently never wears out and in colors never seems to fade. Pink in a delicate shade is also pretty for a bedroom, as the light has a way of shining through it which is very alluring, almost like a sunset glow.

Inside curtains of cretonne may be made of a width of the material less the width that is taken off for the pleating. Make box pleats about two inches wide and the same distance apart, stitch and put around the sides and bottom of curtains, also on the valance. Hang them the same as the other curtains.

The best quality of cheesecloth in all colors can be bought for 10 cents a yard, and silk muslin and cotton poplin at 25 cents.

BEACH SUPPERS BY BONFIRE'S LIGHT

BEACH suppers are the very newest and jolliest form of entertainment. At all the various resorts they are voted far more interesting and enjoyable than the more conventional affairs. They may be very elaborate and expensive, according as the fancy of the host dictates.

Motors are sent to accommodate the guests in many cases, a dancing floor constructed, tents spread and an orchestra brought along. Lanterns are swung, hammocks put up and singers engaged to fill the night with melody. In the South, where the fashion began, negro banjo players are preferred for the various tango melodies and trots.

They may also be planned very simply, much like the old fashioned picnic. The only difference is that these take place at night and that a great bonfire is a feature. A spot on the beach close to the ocean is the best for a supper.

The women wear no hats and there is no special rule as to dressing. Red coats and knickers are sometimes worn by the men. There is nothing that may not be carried with perfect safety in the new English hampers. There are metal lined receptacles for ice and special looking arrangements for wine, which is kept as cold as if from the cellar of a first class hotel. There are still lovers of the sylvan picnic who cling to the idea that bottles cooled in a running brook or stream are better than any others, but this is a daytime and sunlight idea more suitable for the woods than for a beach.

The driftwood bonfire is the great feature of the beach supper, and negroes who have a special gift for making these effective are hired to gather the wood for days ahead and to keep it flaring until the dawn. Sometimes if the moon is unfaithful it is the only light, but it is quite sufficient and very picturesque.

If the picnic idea ever gets really fashionable in this section there are many localities that offer admirable facilities for such gatherings. The Bronx and Staten Island, the Palisades and along through Westchester; Van Cortlandt Park and in spots wooded and quiet on the Hudson's banks there are plenty of accommodations for picnickers. Trolleys will take the guests instead of motors, and the luncheon will taste as good from pasteboard boxes as from the smart luncheon baskets.

An ideal picnic item suitable for service in simple or elaborate style consists of assorted cold meats. These, for convenience sake, are sliced before packing carefully wrapped in paper that comes for the purpose. A good chicken salad is indispensable and lobster salad also is sometimes used. But lobster, or indeed any fish, does not lend itself so agreeably to basket service. Its flavor is apt to get into other things, and in many individual cases it is a food that does not seem to belong to the wholesome list, delightful as it is.

Eggs, boiled hard and carried in the shells, are better than any prepared dish; although egg sandwiches may be made and packed firmly so that they will not break. The sandwich was certainly invented for picnic use and there are many new and novel kinds now in use.

Some of the desirable kinds are those made from chopped olives and olives mixed with nuts. Cucumbers sliced thin with French dressing make appetizing sandwiches. Chopped green peppers or onions may be added where the latter vegetable is not thought obnoxious.

Cheese sandwiches are best made by working the cheese, whatever sort it may be, in with the butter and spreading on the bread. The nut butters are popular with this morsel. Pickles make an excellent sandwich when combined with a small portion of meat, German bread and German mustard being most in favor for this purpose.

Sardines of course make up splendidly with brown bread or white, but again it must be remembered that fish is not a picnic food except where it can be caught on the ground and cooked over a fire, which is sometimes done in the trout season.

Pate de foie gras with plenty of lemon juice is dainty. Plenty of the prepared paper should be used in the packing of sandwiches which are spoiled if they dry up. Some use a damp napkin as a final wrapping outside the paper.

One of the favorite English hamper dishes which has never gained any great popularity on this side of the water is the meat pie, made with veal and ham, chicken, game of all kinds, beef and oysters, pork and pigeon. It is another of the ideal picnic foods and is at its best when cold.

But it not made here unless ordered specially and perhaps our American appetites and American climate make it seem rather formidable. A pleasant substitute for picnic purposes is the pattie, which can be taken along cold. The shells are to had ready made at the caterers for 50 cents a dozen. A good filling is made from cold roast chicken or turkey warmed in a pan and mixed with minced mushrooms. After this has simmered it is poured into the pattie shells. With the remaining gravy make a sauce by adding milk and thickening with flour and butter; season with salt and pepper and the juice of a lemon.

Pour this sauce carefully into the shells, being careful not to overflow them. Then replace the tiny piece of pastry that serves as a cover and put them aside to cool. They will become quite solid to handle. Oysters and crab meat make a good patty. The patties are best packed by themselves in a box or basket.

Fruit of all sorts can be taken in the picnic hamper. Cake also is a requisite of the picnic feast. Ice cream is not only troublesome for the informal feast but it is one of the dangerous warm weather foods. Salads can easily be mixed when needed, the dressing being taken in a bottle.

The taking of vegetables except in the form of a salad is not advisable. It is always best to make the picnic different from the home luncheon. Select the things that you do not have regularly at home. Jellied meats of all kinds are good for picnic menus.

Pie will always be desired by some, but it is rather a messy dish to pack and carry safely when it is as delicate as a pie should be as to crust and filling. The small open tarts with their sturdier under crust are better for packing.

Children's picnics must be conducted on somewhat simpler lines so far as the cusine is concerned. They are apt to run and jump about and exercise overmuch and very simple refreshments should be served them until they get home, when a supper of bread and milk will compensate for their restricted luncheons.